



American
Universities
Field Staff

BOOKS

JUDAISM

CATHOLICISM

ISLAM

How does the religious institution affect the processes of modernization?

How is religion, in turn, influenced by rapid social change?

These issues are examined by eight authors in the most recent collaborative study by the American Universities Field Staff:

CHURCHES AND STATES: The Religious Institution and Modernization

edited by Kalman H. Silvert

Cloth; Index; 224 pp.; \$7.50

- Judaism: Professor Jacob Neusner traces the transformation in modern times of various aspects of traditional Judaism and shows why Judaism is uniquely adapted to contemporary currents of modernization and secularization.
- Catholicism: Contemporary church-state patterns are examined on three continents. The Church in West Africa is described by Dr. Victor D. Du Bois. Professor Thomas G. Sanders treats the relationship of progressive Catholicism and the Left in Brazil. Recent modifications of the shift of the role of the Catholic Church in Austrian politics is analysed by Dr. Dennison I. Rusinow.
- Islam: The effect of Islam on society is considered from four perspectives. Professor Stuart Schaar offers an historical analysis of the Turkish, Moroccan, and Persian royal states of the early 19th century. The social structure of Kelantan, Malaysia is the subject of Dr. Willard A. Hanna's investigation. Professor Charles F. Gallagher brings his wide knowledge of Islam to bear on his study of the synthesis of religion and nationalism in Iran. In the final essay Dr. Louis Dupree discusses religious facets of the stratified society of Afghanistan.

All eight contributors address themselves to the question of what kind of effect the religious institution has on national development, but each one of them answers this question in his own way and in terms of his own area of special study and experience. However, certain patterns do emerge to provide evidence for Dr. Silvert's conclusions. One such conclusion is that the separation of church and state "affirmatively promotes modernization by opening areas of civic freedom, thereby immediately fostering economic and other forms of modernism."

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